

BUILDING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF
**EDUCATION AND
CHILD CARE**

WHAT **LEADERSHIP** IS.

KATHLEEN WYNNE'S PLAN FOR ONTARIO

Kathleen





BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Our 10-Year Goals:

By 2025, we will have a modernized child care system, including better affordability, improved safety, higher quality, and greater accessibility. More than 70 per cent of Ontario's adult population will hold postsecondary education credentials.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS BUILDING THE TALENT AND SKILLS OF OUR PEOPLE TO CREATE A STRONGER ECONOMY AND A BETTER PROVINCE. Education creates vibrant communities, prosperous societies and leads to greater economic productivity. It is also the great equalizer that underscores our democracy and our values.

Tomorrow's graduates will enter a world that is increasingly competitive, globally connected and technologically driven. In order to **build a competitive global economy** for the future, we must **invest in the talent and skills of Ontarians** today. Working with our partners, we have built one of the best education systems in the world, and funded an unprecedented expansion of our postsecondary sector. We must continue to **invest in**, and continue to **improve, our education system from the earliest years through to the highest education.**

We choose to lead. A Kathleen Wynne government will build a comprehensive and continuous education system that **supports children all the way from birth to adulthood.** Our objective is simple. Building on ten years of progress, our child care centres, schools, and postsecondary institutions will **meet tomorrow's challenges by preparing today's learners for success in the new economy.**

The time to lead is now. By making the right choices, we will build the next generation of child care and education, giving our children the best start in life and a pathway to future success. **This is our chance. This is the choice.**

As part of our 10-year plan, a Kathleen Wynne Government will:

- > Help parents with **child care** and provide our youngest learners with a **strong start** so that they are ready to succeed at school and in life
- > Strive for **excellence from Kindergarten to Grade 12**
- > Improve **access to postsecondary education**, and enhance bridges to **jobs and the broader economy**, including continuing to offer **30% Off Tuition** and **increasing the number of apprentices training in Ontario.**

HELPING PARENTS WITH CHILD CARE AND PROVIDING OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS WITH A STRONG START

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INVESTING IN EARLY LEARNING. Studies show the return on investment is up to seven to one. That is why we introduced Full-Day Kindergarten and expanded early learning centres. It is why all Ontario four- and five-year-olds will have access to Full-Day Kindergarten by this fall. We **will continue increasing the quality of child care and other early learning opportunities.** And, we will continue to **fight for a national partner** to expand access to child care.

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A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL HELP PARENTS WITH CHILD CARE AND PROVIDE OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS WITH A STRONG START BY:

- ✓ **PROVIDING BETTER CARE.** We will re-introduce the *Child Care Modernization Act*, our comprehensive legislation to modernize the delivery of child care, including improved safety, higher quality, and greater accessibility.
- ✓ **FUNDING CHILD CARE.** We will support the *Child Care Modernization Act* by investing to protect licensed child care spaces and subsidies and improve the quality of care. We will provide wage increases of \$1 an hour in 2015 and \$1 an hour in 2016 for child care workers working outside the public school system.
- ✓ **COMPLETING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN.** Full-Day Kindergarten will be available to all 265,000 four- and five-year olds by September 2014. Full-Day Kindergarten helps improve a child's social skills, language and learning, and saves a family up to \$6,500 in child care costs per child per year.
- ✓ **FIGHTING FOR A NATIONAL CHILD CARE PARTNER.** We call on all federal parties to adopt a national child care program in their 2015 election platforms and will work with a willing federal partner to increase access to and the quality of licensed childcare as core elements of such a program.

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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INVESTING IN EXCELLENCE IN OUR PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOL SYSTEMS. Ninety-five per cent of children in Ontario attend a publicly funded school. Ontario students continued to perform above the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average in every category in the 2012 Program for International Assessment test. Few other jurisdictions can boast such a high level of confidence in their school system. However, in today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, we need to focus on preparing students for success in a hi-tech, globalized economy. We need to build on the basics – literacy and numeracy – while recognizing that problem-solving, creativity and entrepreneurship are key to future success. That is why we will focus on **fostering creativity and innovation**, and **invest in technology and experiential learning opportunities for students.**

A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPLEMENT ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE, OUR COMPREHENSIVE VISION FOR AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE 21ST CENTURY, BY:



FOCUSING ON LEARNING THAT RESPONDS TO TODAY'S SOCIETY AND ECONOMY. This includes:

- › **Promoting experiential learning.** We will promote educational opportunities – things like learning outside the classroom, dual credits, co-operative education, specialist high skills majors, hands-on learning, online education, project-based learning, and other tools to prepare students for success after high school.
- › **Investing in technology.** We are investing \$150 million over three years in technology and learning tools, such as new digital tablets, netbooks, cameras, software and professional development for teachers. This fund will support the way today's students learn and prepare them for good jobs in the global economy.
- › **Learning the skills for success.** In the classroom, we will focus on skills like creativity, collaboration, problem solving, and entrepreneurialism. We will expand the availability of certification in Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship.
- › **More global-oriented learning.** We will bring a more global focus to students' experiences and learning opportunities. We will set a long-term goal that will see significantly more Ontario students graduate with international experience and knowledge of another language.

We will promote practical educational opportunities to prepare students for success after high school.

- ✓ **IMPROVING MATH SCORES.** We will continue to implement our Math Action Plan to ensure we make progress in this critical area. We will review the math curriculum, help more teachers specialize in teaching math, provide better help for students who are struggling, and continue to give free online homework help for students in Grades 7-10. We will achieve a balance that makes sure students understand basic math concepts, gain arithmetic skills (such as knowing multiplication tables), and develop the thinking skills required for advanced problem solving.

 - ✓ **PROMOTING STUDENT WELLNESS.** We will promote the wellbeing of all students by:
 - › **Helping kids be more active and healthy.** We will work with school boards and non-profits to support a comprehensive approach to wellness in our schools. This includes ongoing work to support accepting school climates, supporting mental health in our schools, and renewing our focus on healthy eating and physical activity. Through intramural sports, before- and after-school, and other activities, we will set a longer-term goal of providing students with the opportunity to participate in 60 minutes of physical activity connected to their school day. We will support this approach with a new recognition program to celebrate healthy, active schools across Ontario.
 - › **Providing free, nutritious breakfasts.** We will expand the Student Nutrition Program, making it available at 340 more schools for an additional 56,000 children.

 - ✓ **FOCUSING ON STRUGGLING STUDENTS.** We will continue to focus on closing achievement gaps for groups of students experiencing less success.
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IMPROVING ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND BRIDGES TO THE LABOUR MARKET

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INCREASING THE ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. We will invest in postsecondary education as a cornerstone of the future success of our citizens and our economy. We will also enhance our postsecondary institutions' connectivity with the labour market and the economy to ensure today's students are in demand when they graduate, because they have skills necessary to succeed in tomorrow's economy.

A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AND ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND JOBS BY:

✓ **PREPARING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR SUCCESS.** We will better prepare students for the workforce by:

- › Guaranteeing that every Grade 7-12 student has access to their own online career planning tool, so that students leave secondary school with a clear path for their initial postsecondary destination, be it apprenticeship training, college, Experience Ontario, university or the workplace.
- › Supporting guidance counsellors to better prepare students for future careers.
- › Replacing the current Grade 10 Careers curriculum with one that helps students explore possible careers in a more hands-on way.
- › Working with schools, school boards, guidance counsellors and business and labour in communities to identify Skills Champions who can mentor students throughout school toward apprenticeship and a successful career.

Every Grade 7-12 student will have access to their own online career planning tool.

✓ **LAUNCHING EXPERIENCE ONTARIO.** In partnership with communities and the private sector, we would launch Experience Ontario, a nine-month paid community work and service program, to support graduating high school students before they go on to apprenticeship, work, or postsecondary education. Through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund, we would invest \$10 million to support this program.

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✓ **PROVIDE BETTER ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:** Our initiatives to continue to offer 30% Off Tuition, provide additional undergraduate spaces and renew our campuses are described in the *Opportunity for All: A Jobs and Investment Plan for Ontario* section of our plan. We will also make online learning easier, with Ontario Online offering courses for credit in 2015.